(c) and (d) Government has given in principle approval for development of Greenfield airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore on a Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis with Public Private Participation. Government of Karnataka (GoK) through Karnataka State Industrial Investment Development Corporation (KSIIDC) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) together hold 26% equity and the strategic joint venture partners hold the balance 74%. AAl's investment in the equity is capped at Rs. 50 crores. The approximate cost of the project is Rs. 1300 crores. A concession agreement has already been executed between Government of India and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL). Certain other agreements are also being finalized and are likely to be executed shortly. The target opening date of the airport is 33 months from the date of Financial Closure.

State of Airports

451. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the state of airports outside major cities is far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether there are any plans by Government to improve those airports and the facilities thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The improvement and upgradation of airports located outside major cities is a continuous process and taken up in phased manner on felt-need basis.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposed to modernize twenty five (25) Non-Metro airports in phases with focus on airside and cityside development. In the first phase, approximately 10 airports would be taken up and the remaining in the second phase. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to upgrade these airports to world class standards through the process of modernisation. AAI is in the process of appointing Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) and Global Technical Advisor (GRA) who will assist AAI in conducting techno-economic feasibility study of identified airport to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project.